

Amendments To The Claims

The listing of claims presented below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device for protecting a ~~fib~~er line against destruction by laser radiation, comprising:

a section of an optical ~~fib~~er line having a first core diameter with a constant diameter throughout the length of said section, said first section of said optical fiber line having:

optical fiber cladding over a first section of said fiber line that is of a second diameter greater than said first core diameter; and

optical fiber cladding over a second section of said fiber line that is of a third diameter that is less than said second diameter but greater than said first core diameter, said second section being adjacent to said first section.

~~and a cladding of said optical fibre section, said cladding having at least at one part of length L to $\leq 10 \cdot D$ of said optical fibre section a cross-section parameter d in the range $D < d \leq \min(4D, 40 \text{ } \mu\text{m})$, where D is the mode field diameter.~~

2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fib~~er cladding is made of silica based glass.

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section is formed directly in the ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ line to be protected.

4. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section is further included into the ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ line to be protected, e.g. by splicing or connecting by optical connectors.

5. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section is cylindrical, with the core having a constant diameter throughout the length of said section, and the cladding diameter d of the optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section at least at one part of length L $L \geq 10 \cdot D$ of said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section being in the range $D < d \leq \min(4D, 40 \text{ } \mu\text{m})$, where D is the mode field diameter.

6. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section is formed directly in the ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ line to be protected.

7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ section is supplied to further into the ~~fi~~ber ~~fiber~~ line to be protected, ~~e.g. by splicing or connecting~~ by optical connectors.

8. (New) The device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical ~~fi~~ber

fiber section cladding has at least at section with a length $L \geq 10 \cdot D$ and a cross-section parameter d in the range $D < d \leq \min(4D, 40\text{m}\mu)$, where D is the mode field diameter.